

NSA Security Studies

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Note: For regional analysis and links, see our Resources & Links page at <http://www.ccc.nps.navy.mil/rsepResources/index.asp>

Introduction

The Department of National Security Affairs at the Naval Postgraduate School offers a comprehensive, fully accredited Masters Degree program in Security Studies, in an academic environment includes students from all the U.S. armed services, other government departments, and other nations. This degree is particularly tailored to the intellectual needs and institutional requirements of the U.S. armed forces and related federal agencies and departments.

The Security Studies curriculum offers three separate, specialized tracks: Civil-Military Relations, Stabilization and Reconstruction, and Defense Decision-Making and Planning. In addition to a foundation of graduate education, comparable to civilian academic training, this curriculum provides variety and depth of coursework on current defense challenges. In a recent survey, a student wrote “to study at NPS is a great learning experience (personal, professional, social),” citing linkages between theory and practice and shared insights from field experience, the guidance of skilled professors, and a great mix of students.

The following attributes of the Security Studies curriculum are particularly noteworthy:

- Each Security Studies track is interdisciplinary, to meet multidimensional defense challenges. Specialized tracks are tailored to meet sponsor and student needs.
- Security Studies provides professional civil-military education to both military officers and civilian government officials.
- Participants in the Security Studies curriculum benefit from a multinational mix in the classroom. Graduates, many of them highly successful in their careers, make and sustain international relationships.

Graduate-level programs in security studies must continuously evolve continuously in response to changing international conditions, the changing interests and research activities of the faculty, and changing sponsor requirements. Understandably, some of the information presented here will become outdated over time.

Courses conveying Phase I JPME certification, as well as selected U.S. Marine Corps PME courses, are available to Security Studies students while in residence at NPS. War College courses do not count as credits towards an NS degree. Anyone doing JPME at NPS will need five quarters to do so.

>> Academic Associate and Curriculum Officer

Questions about academic planning, course requirements, thesis topics, and so on, should be directed to the Academic Associate, Professor Maria Rasmussen (mrasmussen@nps.edu).

Questions about US officer's service-related or administrative issues should be directed to the Curriculum Officer, Captain Ray Roll (rbroll@nps.edu).

Questions about international student administrative issues should be directed to the International Office and Colonel (Ret.) Gary Roser (groser@nps.edu)

>> Admissions Inquiries

Questions about admissions procedures should be addressed to the Naval Postgraduate School Director of Admissions, or to the National Security Affairs Curricular Officer (Appendix A). Students may enter our curricula with any undergraduate background.

For enrollment information contact the following:

International:

COL Gary Roser USMC (Ret)
Assistant Dean of the School of International Graduate Studies
Code 04IGP 1 University Circle, Rm B-047
Naval Postgraduate School
Monterey, CA 93943
Tel. (831) 656-2186 / DSN 756-2186 / FAX (831) 656-3064
E-mail: groser@nps.edu

U.S.:

NPS Admissions
Admissions Officer Code 01C3, Naval Postgraduate School,
589 Dyer Rd., RM 103D Monterey, CA 93943-5100
Tel. (831) 656-3093 / DSN 756-3093
E-mail: grad-ed@nps.edu

General Requirements

All recipients of a Master's Degree at NPS must complete a sequence of courses approved by their program sponsor, including at least 16 hours of graduate work at the 4000-level. Tracks in Security Studies are structured to satisfy these requirements, while affording students sufficient flexibility to develop and pursue their own interests effectively. Curricular requirements derive from the Educational Skill Requirements developed in consultation with curriculum sponsors, are approved by the academic council, and vary somewhat depending upon service affiliation and length of stay. Students should be alert to these differences.

Only Navy and Marine officers are subject to the “SECNAV Requirement,” which is typically satisfied by enrolling in *NW 3230—Strategy and Policy*, and only Navy officers are required to complete the JPME Phase I certification program.

NS 4255—Seminar in Naval History and Maritime Strategy also fulfills this requirement, but other strategy related classed in the NSA department may fulfill the requirement if approved by the Academic Associate. Students in other services may choose it as an elective.

>> Disciplinary Core Courses

All students in Security Studies are expected to acquire a basic familiarity with four academic fields: history, international relations, comparative politics, and economics. The courses required to satisfy this requirement are:

- NS 3000—War in the Modern World
- *Note: Students enrolled in 689B will take, and others by permission may take: NS 3001—War and Its Impact on Postconflict Reconstruction*
- NS 3023—Introduction to Comparative Politics
- NS 3024—Introduction to International Relations
- NS 3040—The Politics of Global Economic Relations; or NS 3041—Comparative Economic Systems
- *Note: Students enrolled in 689B will take, and others by permission may take: NS 3042—Economic Development in Stabilization and Reconstruction*
- NS 2011—Policy Analysis and Research Methods

Disciplinary core courses should be taken as early as possible in a student's program of study. The 2-hour course in research methods, *NS 2011—Policy Analysis and Research Methods*, is required as an overload (a fifth course) during the first or second quarter of enrollment.

>> Curricular Core Courses

Each Security Studies track includes courses that are required either individually or as one of a small number of specified alternatives. These are described in the individual track sections below.

>> Curricular Electives

Curricular electives are courses directly and substantially pertinent to the student specialization. Curricular electives differ from curricular core courses to the extent that individual courses are not required. They differ from “general” electives, described below, to the extent that student choices are confined to a list of designated courses. The array of courses offered as curricular electives varies from year to year, and will change as new courses are developed. In nearly all cases, the appropriateness of a course as a curricular elective will be apparent from its title. Questions about the appropriateness of new or unlisted courses as curricular electives should be addressed to the Academic Associate.

>> General Electives

A student's choice of general electives is not constrained by formal requirements – though it is assumed that the courses chosen will be consistent with the student's overall educational goals, and with the goals of subspecialty education as described in the sponsor's ESRs. General electives may be chosen to support thesis research, to pursue secondary areas of academic interest, or to prepare for the comprehensive examination. They may be chosen from all courses

in National Security Affairs or, with permission of the Academic Associate, from other departments or groups at NPS.

>> JPME Requirement

JPME courses are an independent requirement, and may not be used to validate other required courses. Nor do they count as “general electives,” described below. Additional information on JPME should be obtained from Professor Fred Drake, Chairman, Joint Professional Military Education, GI 231.

>> Thesis Research

Students who enroll in 689A, 689B and the 18-month 689C tracks are required to write a thesis. To do so, they are afforded the opportunity to enroll in *NS 0810—Thesis Research*, a maximum of three times. Thesis students must also take *NS 4080—Research Colloquium*, normally during their third or fourth quarter in residence.

Students who satisfy curricular course requirements through validation of courses (see below) or by other means (e.g. taking an overload in a previous quarter), may enroll in NS 0810 more frequently with the permission of the Academic Associate. Those who prefer to take additional courses while completing their theses may enroll less frequently. The 15-month 689C track is approved for a thesis substitute, but it requires both a comprehensive exam and 12 more units at the 4000 level.

All students writing theses should familiarize themselves with departmental policies regarding thesis proposals, and the time-table for the submission of the final manuscript. This information is available from the Department office. Additional information can also be found here: <http://www.ccc.nps.navy.mil/nsa/thesisInfo.asp>. Examples of student theses may be found here: <http://www.ccc.nps.navy.mil/research/#student>.

>> Comprehensive Examination

Students in the 15-month 689C track who are completing their JPME may elect a thesis substitute in the form of a written Comprehensive Examination in their sub-specialty field. Students taking comprehensive examinations are afforded time to prepare via enrollment in NS 0811, Comprehensive Examination. Note, however, that this course is not required. Students may use the time to take an additional elective if they wish. Details about the structure and contents of Comprehensive Examinations are available from the NSA office, or from the Academic Associate.

Curriculum Planning

Security Studies is a dynamic field. New courses are developed every year, while offerings among established courses vary from one year to the next depending upon the research programs and other commitments of the faculty. The need to provide a diverse mix of offerings means that few courses (apart from the disciplinary core courses) are offered more than once per year. These considerations, plus the fact that students enter and leave the program every quarter, and stay for varying lengths of time, make it infeasible to develop common matrices applicable to all students in a given subspecialty. The subspecialty requirements described below thus make no assumptions about course sequencing, and allow significant flexibility in course selection. Some courses require prerequisites, however, and students should be alert to these in making their plans. Requests for exceptions to prerequisite requirements should be addressed to the professor teaching the course.

>> Directed Studies

NS 3079, Directed Studies in National Security Affairs, and NS 4079, Advanced Directed Studies in National Security Affairs, are available to Security Studies students who wish to pursue subjects that are not covered by regular departmental course offerings. Requests to enroll in these courses require explicit justification in light of the student's overall course of study. Students should keep in mind that none of the faculty in National Security Affairs teach every quarter, so it may not always be possible to arrange directed study with a particular professor at a particular time.

>> Validation of Courses

Students are encouraged to validate courses that duplicate material studied elsewhere. Doing so may create additional degrees of freedom, in the form of reduced course loads or an increased number of general electives, and can sometimes shorten the time necessary to obtain a degree. Students who validate a significant number of courses should be aware, however, that doing so may limit their educational opportunities, by reducing the number of relevant courses available to them in a given quarter.

>> Exemptions and Exceptions

The goal of the Security Studies curriculum is to optimize educational results for individual students, while maximizing the value we convey to our curricular sponsors. To achieve this, it is occasionally necessary or desirable to waive formal requirements in order to permit students to pursue their own work most effectively. All such requests should be addressed to the Academic Associate well in advance of any pertinent deadlines.

>> Security Studies Tracks

For detailed information on current Security Studies tracks, please click the following links:

- 689A—Civil Military Relations:
<http://www.ccc.nps.navy.mil/nsa/secStudies-689A.asp>
- 689B—Stabilization and Reconstruction:
<http://www.ccc.nps.navy.mil/nsa/secStudies-689B.asp>
- 689C—Defense Decision-Making and Planning:
<http://www.ccc.nps.navy.mil/nsa/secStudies-689C.asp>

Please note, we will be introducing a new Security Studies track next year (AY2007), 689D—Counterterrorism Policy and Strategy.

Point of Contact Information

>> Academic Programs

For additional information about academic programs in Security Studies, please contact:

Professor Maria Rasmussen
Academic Associate for Security Studies
Office: Glasgow 397
Department of National Security Affairs
Naval Postgraduate School
Monterey, CA 93943
Tel: (831) 656-3673
E-mail: mrasmussen@nps.navy.mil

>> Service-Related Matters

Questions about service-related matters, course enrollment procedures, and so forth should be addressed to:

Dora Martinez
Educational Technician Office: Glasgow 309
National Security and Intelligence Programs
Naval Postgraduate School
Monterey, CA 93943
Tel: (831) 656-2845
E-mail: dmartinez@nps.navy.mil

>> Joint Professional Education

Questions about Joint Professional Military Education should be addressed to:

Professor Fred P. Drake
Chairman, Joint Professional Military Education
Office: Glasgow 231
Naval Postgraduate School
Monterey, CA 93943
Tel: (831) 656-3003
E-mail: fpdrake@nps.navy.mil

>> Admissions

Questions about admission to the Naval Postgraduate School should be addressed to:

Director of Admissions
Office: Root 103D-01C3
Naval Postgraduate School
Monterey, CA 93943
Tel: (831) 656-3093
E-mail: kcollyer@nps.navy.mil

>> International Students

International students may also wish to contact the International Student office:

Colonel Gary Roser (USA, Ret.)
Director of International Programs
Naval Postgraduate School
Monterey, CA 93943
Tel: (831) 656-2186
E-mail: groser@nps.navy.mil

Educational Skill Requirements (ESRs), Security Studies

The goal of the 689 curriculum is to educate military officers and civilian officials of the United States and other nations in regional studies and the unique challenges involved in effective security cooperation with states in other world regions. The 689 curriculum includes a core of historical inquiry, comparative politics and international relations. Each of its tracks includes a specific series of courses focused on region specific history and culture, politics and government, security structures and processes, security issues, and relationships with the United States and other countries and international organizations. These tracks in Security Studies draw upon other NPS curricula including Regional Intelligence and Regional Security Studies.

Students conduct research (including classified research) on questions of interest to the program sponsors, the U.S. Armed Services, the unified commands, and other federal agencies. Special emphasis is placed on the writing of a thesis, which gives the student the opportunity to develop the skills required for critical thought and coherent expression while producing a study of value to the Department of Defense. Graduates will understand regional challenges to U.S. national security and the role of U.S. national security policy in addressing such challenges. They will thoroughly understand the security situation of the particular region in which they specialize, as well as U.S. foreign and defense policies applicable to that region.

The Security Studies curriculum also incorporates NPS and Naval War College courses to earn Professional Joint Education (JPME) Phase I credit.

Navy Officers completing these tracks, in addition to receiving the applicable sub-specialty code for their region of study, will also receive the Additional Qualification Designator (AQD) designating them as Navy Foreign Area Officers (FAO) in accordance with applicable instructions.

>> I. BASIC GRADUATE LEVEL SKILLS

A. Research:

Be proficient at assembling information from the full range of data sources applicable to analyzing, understanding, and explaining international political, economic, and military events. (NS 2011, NS 4080 and NS 4000 level courses)

B. Analysis:

Be able to logically combine data and theory to analyze and explain international political, economic, and military events and to formulate innovative solutions to strategic problems. (NS 2011, NS 4080 and NS 4000 level courses)

C. Communications:

Be proficient at to clearly summarize large quantities of information and persuasively present recommended policy positions and courses of action using a broad range of verbal and written communications formats, including short and concise statements of the strongest or most pertinent facts and recommendations (e.g., short oral arguments or written summaries such as position/talking point papers) and comprehensive, fully documented, presentations of all pertinent facts, hypotheses, and conclusions (e.g., academic theses).)

>> II. GENERAL POLITICAL SCIENCE, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND SECURITY STUDIES

A. International and Comparative Politics:

Understand the conditions, events, and ideas that shape the interactions of nation-states and other actors in the international system. Know the history and major theories explaining international relations (including realism, cognitive, and cultural paradigms) and be able to use this knowledge to analyze and explain international and domestic issues.

B. The International Economy:

Understand the economic factors that shape the international security environment, including the economic dimensions of national security policy and the ways in which economic policies and interests affect military strategy and force structure.

C. Diplomatic History:

Know origins and development of diplomatic relations between the countries of the world, including negotiations of peace settlements, military alliances, arms limitation agreements, economic arrangements, and human rights accords.

D. International Law and Organizations:

Know the rudiments of international law, including the law of the sea and the laws of armed conflict. Understand the history of international organizations and their role in international politics and the theory and practice of international mediation and negotiations, formal and informal security arrangements, treaty regimes, and international law, and their impact on U.S. military planning and rules of engagement, including the role and impact of non-governmental organizations on peacekeeping and humanitarian operations.)

E. U.S. Public Management and Organization:

Know the theory and practice of management in the U.S. public sector, including strategies and tactics of executive branch management, organizational change and adaptation, and problems of leadership in civilian branches and agencies, including Congress.

F. Military History and Defense Organization:

Know rudiments of U.S. and world military history, including the origins and evolution of current U.S. security policy and strategy.

G. U.S. Security Policy and Strategy:

Understand the formulation and execution of U.S. national security policy and strategy, including interactions among the executive departments and agencies and between the executive and legislative branches of government in policy, strategy, and budget decisions. (NWC courses, NS 3030 or NS 3037)

>> III. PROFESSIONAL JOINT MILITARY EDUCATION

A. National Military Capabilities and Command Structure:

Understand the capabilities and limitations of U.S. military forces; the organizational framework within which joint forces are employed; the purpose, roles, functions, and relationships of the President, National Security Council, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Joint Chiefs of Staff, combatant commanders, Joint Force Commanders (JFCs), and combat support organizations; joint force command relationships and directive authority for logistics support joint warfighting capabilities; and how the U.S. military is organized to plan, execute, sustain, and train for joint, interagency, and multinational operations.

B. Joint Doctrine:

Understand current joint doctrine, the factors influencing joint doctrine, the relationship between Service and joint doctrine, and be able to formulate and defend solutions to operational problems using current joint doctrine.

C. Joint and Multinational Forces at the Operational Level of War:

Understand the relationships among national objectives, military objectives, and conflict termination; the relationships among the strategic, operational, and tactical levels of war; how theory and principles of war apply at the operational level; the considerations for employing joint and multinational forces at the operational level; and be able to plan for the operational level employment of joint forces.

D. Joint Planning and Execution Processes:

Understand the fundamentals of campaign planning; the relationship between national objectives and available means through the framework of joint planning processes; the effect of time, coordination, policy changes, and political developments on the planning process; how defense planning systems affect joint operational planning; and how national, joint, and Service intelligence organizations support JFCs.

**** Note that NS 4080 is a 2-hour Pass/Fail course. It does not count against the requirement that students take four 4000-level courses.**
